

## ABSTRACT

A preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a method for creating a database for a form-based data collection system, comprising the steps of receiving from a user a document comprising data regarding shapes or graphical objects associated with information comprising one or more of the following: data type, data field size, and field location; and populating a database from the information, using the data. Preferably, the shapes or graphical objects are dragged and dropped into the document. Typically, the document comprises a plurality of pages, and the method comprises creating a form using information associated with each page. In one embodiment, each form includes a form number. Typically, the form also includes a form identification bubble. Preferably, after the forms are created, they are emailed to the user. Software for performing the above steps in an automated manner is also disclosed.